

# The Filter App



a short story for English  
reading and speaking

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# Introduction

What are filter apps?

Are filter apps popular in your country?

Have you used a filter app before?

Are they harmful in any way? Or just harmless fun?

# The Filter App

**Laura's hand hovered over the app's icon.**

The Filter App had a very gripping reputation.

She had seen videos of women who had used it, how it had transformed their lives, changed them forever. These videos showed women who looked just perfect.

***Every single feature about them was just...***

“Too beautiful”. Laura mouthed the words out loud.

She fought internally, struggled with the unfairness of it all. And despite all the negative things that were said about The Filter App, Laura just wanted to try.

She wanted other people to gaze at her admiringly. She wanted to look at herself in the mirror and not feel any sense of inherent shame about herself.

***She took in a deep breath and clicked.***

The app appeared on the screen, shimmering with a translucent wheel to show that it was downloading to her phone.

She could just try it. She convinced herself that was all she was doing. She was trying it out.

And if it didn't work out... *she could delete the app.*

**No harm in that.**

She was alone in the house. Her mother had left to go to work, but popped her head into Laura's bedroom to see if she was doing anything today.

Laura had not worked for the last six months. Since losing her last job, she just seemed to lie in bed, scrolling and scrolling and scrolling...

A small ping from her phone and she saw the app on her screen. Solid and bold.

***Laura took another breath and clicked the icon.***

It surged into life, a fleeting parade of beautiful women cascading across in front of her.

Then an image of herself, staring back at her. The app had clearly taken command of the phone's camera.

Laura stared at the reflection of herself, her mouth half open, heavy-lidded eyes blankly staring into the app itself.

Messages appeared on the screen.

***What would you like to change about yourself today?***

***Click the part of your face you would like to transform.***

Laura's first reaction was to think of her nose.

The one part of her entire body that she hated the most. She had other forms of contempt for her eyes, her eyebrows, her mouth, her legs.

But her nose... *She despised it.*

She clicked on the image on the screen, her finger tapping the part of her nose.

A series of alternative pictures appeared before her. Laura with a selection of different noses. Each one better than the last.

She barely had time to take it all in as each image changed as she became aware of what she was looking at.

Then, at last, a final picture of her with the most perfect nose. Long and streamlined, elegant and just... Just beautiful.

*No ugly bump in the middle now.*

**Now she looked amazing.**

The image of her face rotated this way and that, to give her a full 180-degree view of what the new app-generated nose would look like from all angles.

***Laura let out a laugh of joy.***

She could not believe how real it looked. It made her look completely different.

Without thinking, Laura raised her finger and thumb to her

nose and touched it. To feel it.

***It felt different.***

The shape, the size of it. It didn't feel the same as it usually felt.

Laura swiped the screen of her phone to pull up the camera app and clicked on it.

***How was this possible?***

The reflecting image showed her with the new nose.

Is this how the app worked? That it took total control of her phone like this?

She turned this way, and that, tilted her head up and down, but the new nose looked so real. It looked like it was her real nose.

***It could not be...***

Laura jumped to her feet and scrambled through the scattered things in her bedroom for a mirror. She did have one, but no idea where it could be.

***The bathroom.***

She ran out of her room and into the bathroom.

As she leaned closer to the mirror, she gasped in shock.

The new nose. It was there.

***Right in the middle of her face.***

She staggered back in shock, her back hitting the door of the

bathroom.

Laura stared into the mirror, trying to take in the reflection before her.

***How was this possible?***

She tried to figure out what the power of the app could be. Was it possible to change the way she saw herself?

She stepped slowly back to the mirror and leaned close to it.

**It was real. The new nose was real.**

She touched it with her fingers, pushing it, moving it.

It was as real as any other part of her.

As the realisation dawned upon her, her mind became filled with joy.

***This was unbelievable.***

Not just a new nose to replace her old ugly nose.

But the most perfect nose she could have wished for.

She gasped for air, then let out a laugh of sheer happiness.

Her eyes filled with tears.

Just one simple act, the pushing of an invisible button, and now this.

***This would change her life.***

She gazed at the reflection of herself, tilting her head up and



down, moving this way and that, to see her new beautiful nose from every possible angle.

**She loved it.**

*But something else trickled into her thoughts...*

Her eyes. Why were they like that? Just shapeless and nondescript.

Why couldn't she have those perfect almond-shaped eyes that girls on all the social media apps had?

*And her eyebrows... Just a mushy, thick line on her forehead.*

She wanted those elegant arched lines she had seen a thousand times before.

And the less said about her mouth, the better.

Or her legs.

*But the app...*

***The Filter App.***

Maybe that could change everything.

It could give her every possible feature she had ever wanted.

It could transform her into a vision of perfection she has always desired.

Laura rushed back to the bedroom.

***Back to her phone.***

## **And The Filter App.**

# Reading Comprehension Questions

Who is the main character in the story?

Where do you think the story takes place?

What is the name of the app in the story, and what reputation does it have?

Why does Laura want to try The Filter App despite hearing negative things about it?

Where is Laura when she decides to try the app, and why is she alone?

What part of Laura's body does she choose to change first using The Filter App?

Describe the series of alternative pictures that appear on the app when Laura selects her nose.

How does Laura react when she sees the final picture of herself with the transformed nose?

What action does Laura take immediately after seeing the transformed image on the app?

How does Laura confirm that the change made by the app is real and not just a visual trick?

What is Laura's initial emotional response when she sees her new nose in the bathroom mirror?

How does the realisation of the app's power affect Laura's mood?

What physical action does Laura perform to confirm the reality of her new nose?

What other features of her face does Laura start to consider changing after being satisfied with her new nose?

How does the story describe Laura's reaction to the possibility of changing multiple features using The Filter App?

What emotions does Laura experience as she gazes at her reflection with the new nose?

What thoughts enter Laura's mind as she admires her new nose but considers changing other features?

Why does Laura rush back to her bedroom after looking at herself in the bathroom mirror?

What are the features of herself that Laura wishes to change using The Filter App?

What potential impact does Laura believe The Filter App could have on her life?

# Essential Vocabulary

Hovered	Gasped	Cascading
Gripping	Realization	Shimmering
Transformed	Reflection	Inherent
Admiringly	Sheer	Trickled
Contempt	Dawned	Arched
Despised	Mushy	Vision
Elegant	Scrambled	

## Exercise

Write down all the words and phrases in your vocabulary notebook. Look in your dictionary and find the meaning of each word. Write the definition next to each word.

Then make up your own sentences using each word or phrase.

For example:

**Hovered** — *Past tense of; To linger or stay near a place or object, especially in a hesitant or uncertain manner.*

**Gasped** — *Past tense of; To inhale suddenly with a convulsive catching of the breath, as in shock, surprise, or pain.*

Then write a sentence of your own that uses the new word or phrase correctly.

***The shy child hovered near the entrance of the playground, uncertain whether to join the other kids in their games.***

***As the magician made the card disappear and reappear, the audience gasped in disbelief.***

Do this with all the vocabulary and, over time, this will help improve all your English skills — reading, writing, speaking and listening.

## True or False

Look at all the statements below.

State whether they are true or false.

***All the correct answers are at the end of the lesson plan!***

Laura initially hesitated to use The Filter App due to its negative reputation.

Laura's mother was not present in the house when Laura decided to try The Filter App.

Laura had been unemployed for the past six months, spending much of her time scrolling on her phone.

The app asked permission to access Laura's phone camera.

Laura decided to change the shape of her nose using The Filter App.

The app presented Laura with a choice of two noses.

The new nose generated by The Filter App felt different when Laura touched it.

Laura checked her transformed nose in the bathroom mirror and was shocked to see the change was real.

The app could physically change Laura's features rather than altering the way she perceived herself.

Laura was filled with joy and tears upon realizing the transformation of her nose was real.

The story implies that The Filter App could potentially change all of Laura's features, not just her nose.

Laura found her eyes to be perfect and did not consider changing them using the app.

The story suggests that Laura's eyebrows were mushy and thick, and she desired more elegant, arched lines.

Laura was very happy with the way her mouth looked.

Laura decided to return to The Filter App to potentially transform more of her features.



# What is the Correct Synonym?

Look at the table below.

Match the words on the left with the correct synonym on the right.

A synonym is a word of similar meaning.

***You can find all the answers at the end of the lesson plan!***

Gripping	Indistinct
Transformed	Altered
Contempt	Unremarkable
Despised	Refined
Elegant	Spectacle
Scrambled	Hastened
Realization	Awareness
Nondescript	Disdain
Mushy	Compelling
Vision	Loathed

# What is the Correct Antonym?

Take a look at the table below.

Match the words on the left with the correct antonym on the right.

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning.

***You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan!***

Gripping	Unrefined
Transformed	Admiration
Contempt	Adored
Despised	Distinct
Elegant	Dull
Scrambled	Clear-cut
Realization	Ignorance
Nondescript	Delayed
Mushy	Drab
Vision	Preserved

# Words and Meanings

Look at the table of words below.

Now match them with all the correct meanings below the table.

***All the correct answers can be found at the end of the lesson plan!***

Hovered	Scrambled	Arched
Gripping	Gasped	Vision
Transformed	Realization	Cascading
Admiringly	Reflection	Shimmering
Contempt	Sheer	Inherent
Despised	Dawned	Trickled
Elegant	Mushy	

Pleasingly graceful and stylish.

Inhaled suddenly with an open mouth, from surprise or shock.

Moved quickly in a disorganized manner.

Flowed or spread slowly and gradually.

Remain in one place in the air.

Changed significantly in appearance or character.

Felt a deep dislike or aversion for.

Soft and pulpy.

The image of something as reflected by a mirror or other reflective surface.

The ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom.

Used to emphasize the extent or degree of something.

Became evident or understood.

An act of becoming fully aware of something.

Existing as a natural or essential part of something.

Exciting or interesting in a way that keeps your attention.

A perfect appearance or look.

Curved or shaped like an arch.

In a way that shows approval or respect.

The feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving of scorn.

Falling or flowing, like a waterfall.

# Missing Words

Look at the table of words below.

Now put them in the correct gaps in the sentences. One word for one sentence.

***You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan!***

Hovered	Cascading
Gripping	Despised
Elegant	Trickled
Realisation	Shimmering
Admiringly	Vision
Contempt	Arched

The bride appeared at the top of the stairs and looked like an absolute \_\_\_\_\_.

As the puzzle pieces fit together, a sudden \_\_\_\_\_ dawned on him, solving the mystery.

Tears \_\_\_\_\_ down her cheeks as she listened to the emotional song.

She looked at the painting \_\_\_\_\_, appreciating the artist's skill and creativity.

The suspenseful novel had a \_\_\_\_\_ plot that kept me on the edge of my seat.

The lake sparkled with \_\_\_\_\_ reflections of the setting sun.

The butterfly \_\_\_\_\_ gracefully over the vibrant flowers in the garden.

The waterfall created a mesmerizing scene with water \_\_\_\_\_ down the rocky cliffs.

His \_\_\_\_\_ for dishonesty was evident in the stern expression on his face.

The ballroom was adorned with \_\_\_\_\_ decorations for the grand celebration.

She \_\_\_\_\_ the taste of mushrooms and refused to include them in her recipes.

The cat \_\_\_\_\_ its back in a defensive posture when it sensed a potential threat.

## Discussion Questions

What is your initial reaction to Laura's decision to use The Filter App? Do you think it's a common desire for people to want to change their appearance?

How would you describe Laura's emotional state before and after using the app? What do you think drove her to make that choice?

Discuss the role of societal pressure and beauty standards in Laura's decision to use The Filter App. How do these factors affect people in real life?

Analyse the impact of technology on self-perception in the story. Do you think apps like The Filter App can have a positive or negative influence on how people see themselves?

Laura expresses dissatisfaction with various parts of her body. Can you relate to any of these feelings? How do societal expectations contribute to such insecurities?

Explore the concept of perfection as presented in the story. How do you define perfection, and do you think it's attainable or subjective?

Laura's joy turns to shock when she realizes the changes made by the app are physically real. What ethical concerns can arise from using technology to alter one's appearance?



Discuss the potential consequences of using The Filter App in the long run. How might it affect someone's self-esteem, relationships, and overall well-being?

Consider the significance of the title, "The Filter App." What does it imply about the app's purpose, and how does it relate to societal expectations regarding beauty?

Laura's desire for a perfect nose is fulfilled, but she immediately shifts her focus to other features. What does this reveal about the nature of societal beauty standards and the pursuit of perfection?

Explore the theme of self-acceptance in the story. Do you think it's important for individuals to embrace their natural appearance, or is it okay to seek changes via technology?

The story raises questions about the consequences of quick fixes for self-esteem issues. What are some healthier alternatives for building self-confidence and body positivity?

How does Laura's perception of herself change after using The Filter App? Discuss the psychological impact of altered self-image and the potential dangers of seeking external validation.

Consider the parallels between the story and real-life situations where people use filters and editing tools on social media. How does this impact our perception of reality?

Laura experiences a mix of emotions, including joy and shock. How do you think you would feel if you were in her situation? Discuss the emotional roller-coaster of altering one's appearance.

Discuss the role of peer pressure and societal expectations in

shaping individuals' views on beauty. How can we encourage a more inclusive and diverse definition of beauty?

Explore the idea of self-discovery in the story. How does Laura's experience with The Filter App contribute to her understanding of herself, both physically and emotionally?

Consider the potential addiction to altering one's appearance through technology. Do you think individuals might become dependent on such apps? Why or why not?

Discuss the impact of the app on Laura's sense of identity. How might altering physical features influence one's sense of self and authenticity?

Reflect on the broader implications of The Filter App in society. How might the widespread use of such technology impact beauty standards and individuals' perceptions of reality?

# Group Exercise

This is a group activity where each group must prepare a presentation.

## Group Presentation Exercise: "Filter Apps: Navigating the Digital Mirage"

### Objective

The objective of this exercise is for you and your group to research and make a presentation on the impact of filter apps on people and society.

You and your group need to use your critical thinking and research skills.

You also need to communicate effectively with each other and present your final presentation to the rest of the class and your teachers.

### Instructions

#### Formation of Groups

Divide into groups of three or four.

Assign roles within each group (e.g., Researcher 1, Researcher 2, Presenter, Slide Designer). Or you can share all the roles as you wish.

## **Research and Preparation (Outside Class)**

You and your group will need to do some work outside of the classroom in this exercise!

You will have to do proper research on the various aspects of filter apps. Think about the positive and negative impacts of filter apps.

Things for you to consider in your research include:

- psychological effects
- societal perceptions
- privacy concerns
- Trends
- the role of filter apps in different industries

Use the internet and social media platforms to conduct your research.

Also, read articles — and quote from them as you see fit.

## **Presentation Structure**

### **Introduction**

Define filter apps and their widespread use.

Highlight the relevance of the topic in the digital age.

### **Positive Aspects**

Discuss how filter apps contribute to creativity and self-expression.

Present examples of successful use in industries like photography, social media, or marketing.

## **Negative Aspects**

Address concerns related to mental health and self-esteem.

Explore privacy issues, potential misuse, and the perpetuation of unrealistic beauty standards.

## **Societal Impact**

Examine the broader impact on societal perceptions of beauty and identity.

Discuss trends and cultural influences related to filter app usage.

## **Case Studies or Examples**

Include relevant case studies or examples to illustrate key points.

Consider real-world instances where filter apps have had significant consequences.

## **Recommendations**

Propose responsible use guidelines for individuals and platforms.

Suggest potential regulations or ethical considerations for the development and use of filter apps.

## **Slide Design**

The designated Slide Designer or Designers in each group should create visually appealing and informative slides.

Ensure a consistent format and use visuals, graphs, or charts to enhance understanding.

## **Practice Presentation (Optional)**

Groups can meet before the presentation day to rehearse and fine-tune their delivery.

Provide constructive feedback to help improve clarity and coherence.

## **Presentation Day**

Each group presents their findings using the prepared slides. Encourage questions and discussions from the rest of the class.

# Debate

This is a debate activity for the entire class.

## Debate Theme: Filter Apps—Boon or Bane?

### Teams and Chair Person

In this debate activity, the whole class should divide into two teams. You also need to choose one chairperson.

The chairperson will chair the debate — ensure there is order, and that everyone has an opportunity to speak.

### Team A

You believe that Filter Apps are harmless fun.  
People can use them in their free time to create interesting and funny pictures of themselves.  
But also, they can be very useful for the advertising industry.  
If used wisely, there is no harm in filter apps at all.

### Team B

You think filter apps are very harmful to people's mental health and society at large.

You believe that these apps create an illusion of what people really look like and this could create unrealistic beauty ideals and could encourage low self-esteem in people.

Your team thinks that there is no real value in filter apps at all and they should be banned.

## **Instructions**

Get into two teams. The teams should have the same number of people in each team.

Choose a chairperson.

The teams should take some time to prepare what they wish to say in the debate.

Make sure you have at least six relevant points to make to support your line of argument.

***When you are ready, begin the debate!***



# Writing

**This is a creative writing exercise.**

Choose one of the story prompts below. You are going to write a short story based on this.

## **Prompt: The Unintended Consequences**

In a world where everyone relies on a popular filter beauty app, a teenager discovers an unexpected side effect of using the app. As the protagonist navigates through this newfound ability, they must decide whether to embrace their unique talent or find a way to reverse the effects.

## **Prompt: The Hidden Truth**

A young journalist stumbles upon a mysterious filter beauty app that claims to reveal people's true inner beauty. Intrigued, they decide to test the app on various individuals in their community. However, the results lead to unexpected revelations, challenging societal norms and forcing the journalist to question the true meaning of beauty.

## **Prompt: The Mirror's Reflection**

When a mirror with a built-in filter beauty app falls into the hands of a shy and self-conscious artist, their

perception of themselves and their art transforms dramatically. Explore how this newfound confidence influences their work, relationships, and overall outlook on life.

### **Prompt: The Rebellion of Beauty**

In a society obsessed with a government-mandated filter beauty app, a group of rebels emerges, advocating for natural beauty. A young recruit struggles with the conflicting ideals of conformity and authenticity, leading them to question the true purpose of beauty in their society.

### **Prompt: The Lost Identity**

A person wakes up one day to find their entire online presence altered by a malfunctioning filter beauty app. Friends and family no longer recognize them, and their virtual life becomes a maze of confusion. As they attempt to reclaim their true identity, they discover the importance of self-acceptance beyond the influence of social media filters.

### **Write your story.**

When you have finished writing your story, read it out loud in front of the class.

Your classmates and teacher should give you feedback for your story.

***Or you can hand your story to your teacher, and they can give you a review.***

## True or False — Answers

The correct answers are below.

***Were all your answers accurate?***

**True**—Laura initially hesitated to use The Filter App due to its negative reputation.

**False**—Laura's mother was not present in the house when Laura decided to try The Filter App.

**True**—Laura had been unemployed for the past six months, spending much of her time scrolling on her phone.

**False**—The app asked permission to access Laura's phone camera.

**True**—Laura decided to change the shape of her nose using The Filter App.

**False**—The app presented Laura with a choice of two noses.

**True**—The new nose generated by The Filter App felt different when Laura touched it.

**True**—Laura checked her transformed nose in the bathroom mirror and was shocked to see the change was real.

**False**—The app could physically change Laura's features rather than altering the way she perceived herself.

**True**—Laura was filled with joy and tears upon realizing the

transformation of her nose was real.

**True**—The story implies that The Filter App could potentially change all of Laura's features, not just her nose.

**False**—Laura found her eyes to be perfect and did not consider changing them using the app.

**True**—The story suggests that Laura's eyebrows were mushy and thick, and she desired more elegant, arched lines.

**False**—Laura was very happy with the way her mouth looked.

**True**—Laura decided to return to The Filter App to potentially transform more of her features.

# What is the Correct Synonym — Answers

The correct answers are below.

***How many did you get right?***

Gripping	Compelling
Transformed	Altered
Contempt	Disdain
Despised	Loathed
Elegant	Refined
Scrambled	Hastened
Realization	Awareness
Nondescript	Unremarkable
Mushy	Indistinct
Vision	Spectacle

# What is the Correct Antonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

***Were you successful?***

Gripping	Dull
Transformed	Preserved
Contempt	Admiration
Despised	Adored
Elegant	Unrefined
Scrambled	Delayed
Realization	Ignorance
Nondescript	Distinct
Mushy	Clear-cut
Vision	Drab

# Words and Meanings — Answers

These are all the correct answers below.

*How well did you perform?*

**Hovered**—Remain in one place in the air.

**Gripping**—Exciting or interesting in a way that keeps your attention.

**Transformed**—Changed significantly in appearance or character.

**Admiringly**—In a way that shows approval or respect.

**Contempt**—The feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving of scorn.

**Despised**—Felt a deep dislike or aversion for.

**Elegant**—Pleasingly graceful and stylish.

**Scrambled**—Moved quickly in a disorganized manner.

**Gasped**—Inhaled suddenly with an open mouth, from surprise or shock.

**Realization**—An act of becoming fully aware of something.

**Reflection**—The image of something as reflected by a mirror or other reflective surface.



**Sheer**—Used to emphasize the extent or degree of something.

**Dawned**—Became evident or understood.

**Mushy**—Soft and pulpy.

**Arched**—Curved or shaped like an arch.

**Vision**—A perfect appearance or look.

**Cascading**—Falling or flowing, like a waterfall.

**Shimmering**—Shining with a flickering or wavering light.

**Inherent**—Existing as a natural or essential part of something.

**Trickled**—Flowed or spread slowly and gradually.

## Missing Words — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

*Did you get many of them correct? All of them?*

**Hovered:** The butterfly **hovered** gracefully over the vibrant flowers in the garden.

**Gripping:** The suspenseful novel had a **gripping** plot that kept me on the edge of my seat.

**Elegant:** The ballroom was adorned with **elegant** decorations for the grand celebration.

**Realisation:** As the puzzle pieces fit together, a sudden **realisation** dawned on him, solving the mystery.

**Admiringly:** She looked at the painting **admiringly**, appreciating the artist's skill and creativity.

**Contempt:** His **contempt** for dishonesty was evident in the stern expression on his face.

**Cascading:** The waterfall created a mesmerizing scene with water **cascading** down the rocky cliffs.

**Despised:** She **despised** the taste of mushrooms and refused to include them in her recipes.

**Trickled:** Tears **trickled** down her cheeks as she listened to the emotional song.

**Shimmering:** The lake sparkled with **shimmering** reflections of the setting sun.

**Vision:** The bride appeared at the top of the stairs and looked like an absolute **vision**.

**Arched:** The cat **arched** its back in a defensive posture when it sensed a potential threat.

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